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C O N F I D E N T I A L PRAGUE 000133

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EUR/EU TO ERIC FICHTE

E.O. 12958: DECL: 02/08/2017

TAGS: [PREL](#) [KISL](#) [KPAL](#) [KWBG](#) [IS](#) [XX](#) [EZ](#)

SUBJECT: CZECHS CAUTIOUSLY OPTIMISTIC ABOUT HAMAS/FATAH
ANNOUNCEMENT, BUT REMAIN FIRM ON QUARTET PRINCIPLES

REF: STATE 16453

Classified By: Political-Economic Counselor Mike Dodman
for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

[1](#)1. (SBU) Poloff met with the Czech MFA Director of the Middle East and Africa Department Josef Rychtar on February 9 to discuss the announcement that Fatah and Hamas have agreed to form a new Palestinian government. Rychtar agreed the announcement seems to be a positive step, but noted press reports did not state whether the new government will accept the Quartet Principles. He said the Czech Republic will not recognize any Palestinian government that does not expressly accept the Quartet Principles.

[1](#)2. (C) Comment. Rychtar had a meeting with the Palestinian Ambassador Mohamed Salaymeh scheduled after the meeting with Poloff. Poloff met the Ambassador in the lobby and asked what he thought of the news. The Ambassador expressed hopefulness, and seemed to believe the new government would recognize Israel. End comment.

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